

Are you...

- Committed to helping anyone
- In general good health
- Between 18-45 years old
- Over 50kg and with a BMI <40

If so, then you should consider becoming a blood stem cell donor! Give hope of life to many suffering from life-threatening blood disorders

You have the power to save a life

Joining the SABMR* - The basics

*South African Bone Marrow Registry



Every year thousands of South Africans are diagnosed with leukaemia and other life-threatening blood disorders. For many, their only hope is a life-saving blood stem cell transplant.

THE POWER TO SAVE LIVES, COULD BE IN YOUR GENES.

After the initial blood tests are performed, your details are entered into the central computer based at the SABMR, which will be screened each time there is a search for a donor. If you are found to be a match for someone, you will undergo a complete medical examination by an independent physician to confirm your suitability to proceed with a stem cell donation.

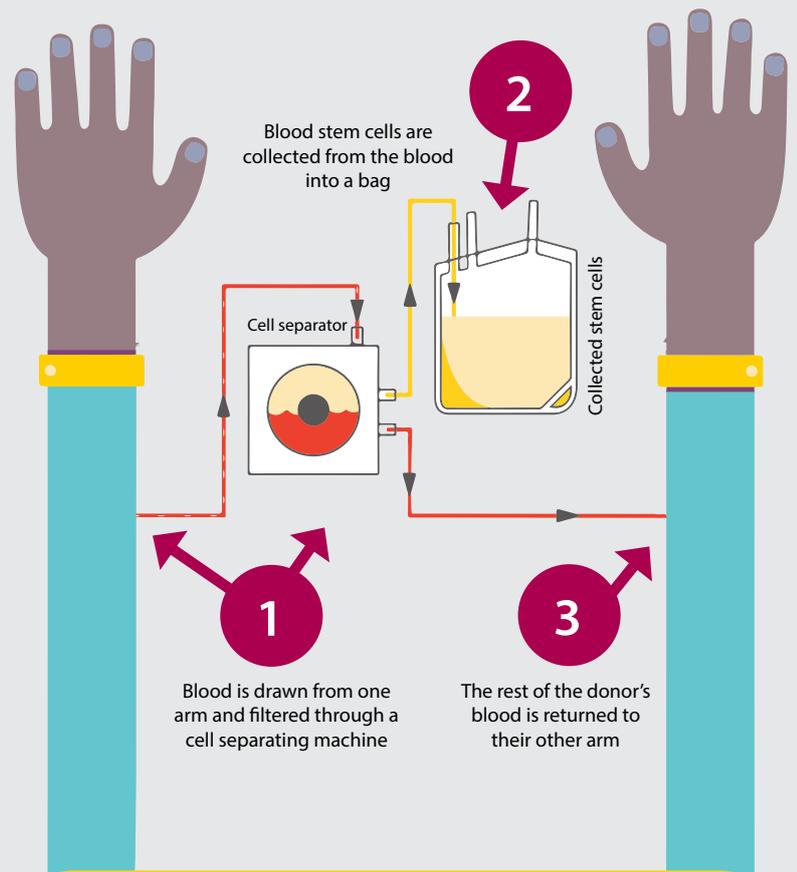
A blood stem cell transplant is a procedure to replace damaged or destroyed bone marrow with healthy bone marrow blood stem cells.

IF YOU ARE A MATCH...

You will undergo a series of G-CSF injections which will take place five days prior to the donation procedure. This will increase the production and release of the stem cells into your blood stream.

What is the G-CSF Hormone? G-CSF is the naturally occurring growth hormone used to increase the number of circulating stem cells in the peripheral blood.

Are there any risks associated with the G-CSF hormone? Other than mild flu-like symptoms, no side-effects have been identified.



The bag of stem cells will go to the patient so they can undergo their life-saving blood stem cell transplant

Please note: Donating blood stem cells is, by law, voluntary and unpaid. You will, however, be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred should you be a match for a patient.



Call us toll-free on **0800 12 10 82**
For more info visit www.sunflowerfund.org.za



The Sunflower Fund
Hope begins with you

Growing a healthy, effective, ethnically diverse registry of committed donors.

Who pays for the test? The Sunflower Fund covers the R2 500 cost of all tissue type testing and welcomes voluntary donor contributions towards these tests. This allows us to allocate our funds to recruit more donors. Donors aged 46-50 may join the SABMR but regrettably The Sunflower Fund cannot sponsor the test.

Why is your ethnicity important? Donor matches depend on tissue types, not blood types and these inherited genetic characteristics are often more frequent in a particular race group. It is therefore important that people of all races register as donors, so that all patients have the opportunity of finding a life-saving donor match.

Joining for someone specific? The most natural reaction is to want to help a friend who needs a blood stem cell transplant. However, it is important that donors who register on the SABMR realise that they have to be available for whoever they match and cannot register specifically for one person. With so many patients requiring this procedure, let's give them all a chance of finding their life-saving match.

For your safety

DONOR AND PATIENT SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY. WE ARE UNABLE TO REGISTER YOU IF YOU:

- Have been exposed to Hepatitis-B, Hepatitis-C or HIV by contact with a family member/friend or through your job
- Have injected yourself (even once) with illegal or non-prescriptive drugs
- Lead a sexually unsafe lifestyle
- Get regular tattoos or piercings
- Are pregnant or had a baby in the last year
- Have had cancer
- Have a phobia for needles



What's next?

contact our call centre on 0800 12 10 82
or +27 21 701 0661 to register as a blood stem cell donor



The Sunflower Fund creates awareness around the need for blood stem cell donors and educates on the process of registering as a donor. We raise funds to cover the tissue typing costs involved in adding donors onto the South African Bone Marrow Registry (SABMR). The Sunflower Fund is also actively involved in creating a platform for support structures to assist patients, their families and communities.

Busting those myths

Myth #1 Blood stem cell donation is painful. With stem cell donation from the blood, there is very little pain involved. It is very similar to donating platelets.

Myth #2 Being a donor means having an operation. There is absolutely no operation whatsoever. A cell separator machine is used to collect stem cells from your blood.

Myth #3 They will drill into my bones! The life-saving bone marrow stem cells are found in your blood stream. A cell separator machine is used to collect stem cells from your blood.

Myth #4 I can't afford to be a blood stem cell donor. We ask potential donors to consider contributing towards the cost of the test, but if you are not able to, The Sunflower Fund will cover all test costs.

Myth #5 You can't donate if you have a tattoo. You can in fact be a blood stem cell donor if you have tattoos or piercings. However you must wait a year after having a tattoo or piercing before you can donate.

Myth #6 Donor matches depends on your blood type. Blood stem cell donor matches depend on tissue types, not blood types. These are inherited genetic characteristics, and are often unique to a particular race group.

Myth #7 I can't become a donor because of my sexual orientation. Donors who engage in safe-sex practices are encouraged to join the registry, irrespective of their sexual orientation.

Unable to register? There are more ways you can help

- Encourage others to register
- Donate Funds
- Volunteer Time

Your donations help us to recruit others wishing to join the registry. Make a donation now.

Direct deposit

The Sunflower Fund
ABSA Bank
Acc No: 405 183 4719
Branch: 632005
Reference: Tissue Typing



SnapScan



Zapper

Email: donors@sunflowerfund.org.za

Sms 'Sunflower' to 40555 to donate R20

Call us toll-free on **0800 12 10 82**
For more info visit www.sunflowerfund.org.za



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